Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application. Claim 1 is an independent claim and claims 2-24 depend there from. Claim 25 is an independent claim and claims 26-31 depend there from. Claim 25 is currently amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A system that enhances the performance of a cochlear implant using a preprocessor, the system comprising:

at least one signal input device;

a first processor that processes signals picked up by the at least one signal input device and sends the preprocessed signal to a second processor, wherein the first processor comprises a hearing aid processor; and

a second processor that processes and encodes the signal in cochlear implants.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the at least one signal input device is one of microphones(s), direct audio input, telecoil, and other forms of analog or digital signals inlet.

3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein the first processor comprises at least one of algorithms stored in a memory or chips used in hearing aids, hearing protectors, and other audio devices.

4. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein algorithms associated with the first processor are implemented in the same chip and case as algorithms associated with the second processor.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the first processor and at least one signal input device are housed in a first case.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 5 wherein the second processor and at least one signal input device are housed in a second case.

7. (Original) The system according to claim 6 wherein an output of the first processor is fed into the second processor.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 6 wherein the system further comprises:

a wireless transmitter connected to the first processor; and

a wireless receiver connected to the second processor, wherein an output of the first processor is wirelessly transmitted via the wireless transmitter to an input of the second processor via the wireless receiver.

9. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the system further comprises a signal input device housed in a first case.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 9 wherein the first processor is housed in a first case.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 9 wherein the second processor is housed in the first case.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 9 wherein the system further comprises a circuit that provides compatibility matching between the first processor and the second processor.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the system further comprises signal input devices housed in a first and second case.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 13 wherein the first processor is housed in the first case.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 14 wherein the second processor is housed in the second case.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 13 wherein the second processor receives a processed signal from the first processor via the signal input device in the second case.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the system further comprises a signal input device housed in a first case.

18. (Original) The system according to claim 17 wherein the first processor and the second processor are housed in a second case.

19. (Original) The system according to claim 9 wherein the system further comprises a circuit that provides compatibility matching between the first processor and the second processor.

20. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein the first processor comprises at least one of:

at least one signal processing stage;

at least one signal processing algorithm stored in a memory; and

at least one component.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 20 wherein the second processor utilizes at least a portion of the first processor.

22. (Original) The system according to claim 21 wherein the first processor contains at least one signal feeding point and at least one signal extraction point to which connection can be made to feed signals into and extract signal from the system.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein the second processor comprises multiple signal processing stages, wherein the first processor is connected between the multiple signal processing stages of the second processor.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein the second processor is an amplification device.

25. (Currently Amended) A method that enhances the performance of a system of a cochlear implant using a pre-processor from a hearing or audio device, the system utilizing at least one signal input device, a first processor, and a second processor, the method comprising:

collecting sounds from a surrounding environment or other hearing or communication devices by the at least one signal input devices;

preprocessing at least a portion of the collected sounds in the first processor, wherein the first processor comprises a hearing aid processor;

feeding the preprocessed sounds into the second processor;

processing the sounds in the second processor; and

feeding the processed sounds into a transmitter.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the feeding of the preprocessed sounds into the second processor is done over at least one of a wireless medium and a wired medium.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the preprocessed sounds are fed into a circuit that provides compatibility matching between the first processor and the second processor.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein at least a portion of the preprocessing is performed by the second processor.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein at least a portion of the preprocessing is performed by the first processor.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25 wherein the first processor is capable of receiving signals from two different signal input devices, wherein the two different input devices represent microphone inputs placed in or near the two ears for bilateral cochlear implants.

31. (Original) The method according to claim 25 wherein the preprocessed signal is fed into two second processors via a "Y" connection for bilateral cochlear implants.